

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In a decorative aquatic pond as found in residential gardens or the like having an impervious liner defining the pond and confining a quantity of water within the pond, a filtration system comprising:

a secondary pool separated from the pond by a pervious wall;

a skimmer basin located within said secondary pool adjacent said pervious wall and adapted to receive surface water into said basin from the pond;

a debris guard within said skimmer basin;

a cover affixed over a major portion of said skimmer basin;

a perforated conduit disposed along the bottom of said pool distal the pond;

a quantity of filter rock filling said secondary pool externally of said basin and overlying said cover and said perforated conduit; and

a pump in communication with said basin and pumping water from said basin and said perforated conduit to a return path to the pond.

2. The filtration system as defined in claim 1 wherein said return path is exposed to open air.

3. The filtration system as defined in claim 2 wherein said return path comprises an artificial waterfall into the pond.

4. The filtration system as defined in claim 2 wherein said return path comprises a fountain.

5. The filtration system as defined in claim 1 wherein said filter rock is sized such that living aquatic plants may be rooted therein.

6. The filtration system as defined in claim 1 further comprising hydroponic plants rooted in said filter rock.
7. The filtration system as defined in claim 1 wherein said filter rock is dimensionally larger than any apertures in said perforated conduit.
8. The filtration system as defined in claim 1 wherein said pervious wall retains said filter rock in said pool and allows free passage of water between the pond and said pool.
9. The filtration system as defined in claim 1 wherein said skimmer basin includes a rigid support for said catch net.
10. A filtration system for an ornamental pond containing water comprising:
  - a secondary pool adjacent the ornamental pond and in aqueous communication with the ornamental pond such that the water level is the same in the pond and said secondary pool;
  - a skimmer basin in said secondary pool having an inlet at the surface of the water therein;
  - a pump in communication with said skimmer basin having an intake from the bottom of said secondary pool and an outlet discharging to the ornamental pond; and
  - natural filtration media filling said secondary pool above water level and surrounding said skimmer basin.
11. A filtration system as defined in claim 10 wherein said natural filtration media comprises a plurality of non-reactive rocks having at least one aquatic plant rooted therein.
12. A filtration system as defined in claim 11 wherein said filtration media is retained in said secondary pool by a pervious wall separating said secondary pool from the ornamental pond.
13. A filtration system as defined in claim 12 wherein said skimmer basin is adjacent said pervious wall and receives water from the top of the ornamental pond.
14. A filtration system as defined in claim 13 wherein said return path includes an aerator.

15. A filtration system as defined in claim 14 wherein said aerator is an artificial waterfall.
16. A filtration system as defined in claim 14 wherein said aerator is a fountain.
17. A filtration system as defined in claim 10 including a debris guard disposed within said skimmer basin above said pump intake.